

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *ulaF* gene.

38. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *sgbE* gene.

39. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene, *ulaF* gene, and *sgbE* gene.

40. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *ulaF* gene.

41. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *sgbE* gene.

42. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene, *ulaF* gene, and *sgbE* gene.

43-52. (Canceled).

53. (New) A vector comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene, wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, except that codon 8 of the *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

54. (New) The vector of claim 53, wherein the guanine at nucleic acid position 709 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with adenine.

55. (New) A vector comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene, wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 18, except that codon 8 of the *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

56. (New) The vector of claim 55, wherein the cytidine at nucleic acid position 320 of SEQ ID NO: 18 is substituted with thymidine.

57. (New) A vector comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene, wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 19, except that codon 8 of the *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

58. (New) The vector of claim 57, wherein the cytidine at nucleic acid position 22 of SEQ ID NO: 19 is substituted with thymidine.

59. (New) The vector of any one of claims 53-58, wherein said vector is an expression vector comprising:

(a) an isolated DNA sequence encoding a nuclear-anchoring protein operatively linked to a heterologous promoter, wherein said nuclear-anchoring protein is the E2 protein of Bovine Papilloma Virus type 1 (BPV), and

(b) an isolated, multimerized DNA sequence forming a binding site for said nuclear-anchoring protein, wherein said binding site comprises multiple binding sites for the BPV E2 protein incorporated into the vector as a cluster, wherein said binding sites can be head-to-tail structures or can be included into said vector by spaced positioning, and wherein said vector lacks a papilloma virus origin of replication.

60. (New) The vector of claim 59, further comprising a deletion in said multimerized DNA sequence.

61. (New) The vector of claim 59, further comprising a mutation in the Shine-Dalgarno sequence of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene.

62. (New) A selection system comprising an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene into which a vector comprising an *E. coli araD* gene has been added as a selection marker, wherein said *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

63. (New) A selection system comprising an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene into which a vector comprising an *E. coli araD* gene has been added as a selection marker, wherein said *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 18.

64. (New) A selection system comprising an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene into which a vector comprising an *E. coli araD* gene has been added as a selection marker, wherein said *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 19.

65. (New) A selection system comprising an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene into which a vector comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been added as a selection marker, wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, except that codon 8 of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

66. (New) The selection system of claim 65, wherein the guanine at nucleic acid position 709 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with adenine.

67. (New) A selection system comprising an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene into which a vector comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been added as a selection marker, wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 18, except that codon 8 of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

68. (New) The selection system of claim 67, wherein the cytidine at nucleic acid position 320 of SEQ ID NO: 18 is substituted with thymidine.

69. (New) A selection system comprising an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene into which a vector comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been added as a selection marker, wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 19, except that codon 8 of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

70. (New) The selection system of claim 69, wherein the cytidine at nucleic acid position 22 of SEQ ID NO: 19 is substituted with thymidine.

71. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising an *E. coli araD* gene as a selection marker and a gene of interest, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) inserting said plasmid into an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene; and
 - (b) growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose;
- wherein said *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

72. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising an *E. coli araD* gene as a selection marker and a gene of interest, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) inserting said plasmid into an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene; and
 - (b) growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose;
- wherein said *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 18.

73. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising an *E. coli araD* gene as a selection marker and a gene of interest, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) inserting said plasmid into an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene; and
- (b) growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose;

wherein said *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 19.

74. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene as a selection marker and a gene of interest, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) inserting said plasmid into an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene; and
- (b) growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose;

wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, except that codon 8 of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the guanine at nucleic acid position 709 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with adenine.

76. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene as a selection marker and a gene of interest, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) inserting said plasmid into an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene; and
- (b) growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose;

wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 18, except that codon 8 of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the cytidine at nucleic acid position 320 of SEQ ID NO: 18 is substituted with thymidine.

78. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising a mutated *E. coli araD* gene as a selection marker and a gene of interest, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) inserting said plasmid into an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene; and
- (b) growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose;

wherein said mutated *E. coli araD* gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 19, except that codon 8 of the mutated *E. coli araD* gene has been mutated to encode a stop codon rather than a glutamine.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the cytidine at nucleic acid position 22 of SEQ ID NO: 19 is substituted with thymidine.

80. (New) The selection system of any one of claims 62-70, wherein said *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene is an *E. coli* strain DH5 alpha, AG1, or JM109 cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene.